



Renton History Museum



Renton History Museum to Host Smithsonian Exhibition on Food



Smithsonian Institution
Traveling Exhibition Service



FEDERATION OF
STATE HUMANITIES
COUNCILS

Key Ingredients: America by Food

March 21 – May 9, 2009

Sustaining a City

March 21 - Indefinite

Background

The Renton History Museum will host ***Key Ingredients: America by Food***, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, from March 21 through May 9, 2009. *Key Ingredients* will be the first Smithsonian Institution exhibit hosted by the Renton History Museum, and this will be the exhibit's only showing in the greater Seattle area.

Key Ingredients explores the historical, regional, and social traditions that merge in home-cooked meals, restaurant cuisine, and celebrations. It uses artifacts, photographs, and illustrations to explore how culture, ethnicity, landscape, and tradition influence American cooking.

At the same time, the museum will also unveil ***Sustaining A City***, an exhibit about Renton's foodways. This exhibit, which runs indefinitely from March 21, explores how Renton fits into the larger national sustainability picture.

Together the two exhibits showcase the ways in which food brings different people together to celebrate and share common values. "Whether in Italian groceries in the nineteenth century or in Mexican restaurants in the twenty-first century, food has brought people together in Renton," said Museum Director Elizabeth P. Stewart.

Renton Activities

From March 21 through May 9, Renton will host a series of food events, classes and activities. Key events include:

- **"In the Kitchen with Tom and Thierry" – Saturday, March 21.** Chefs Tom Douglas and Thierry Rautureau will broadcast live on 97.3 KIRO FM from the exhibit on opening day afternoon. The Renton Community Marketing Campaign is supporting the live broadcast with radio ads leading up to opening day.
- **Renton Historical Society Members' Kick-Off Party – Thursday, March 26.** Wear your favorite apron as you tour Key Ingredients: America By Food, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit. Prizes awarded for the funniest, prettiest, etc.!
- **Bite of Downtown Renton – Monday, March 30.** Take a taste-sampling tour of nine downtown restaurants, from appetizers to entrees to desserts. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the Renton History Museum. Sponsored by the City of Renton and the partners of the Renton Community Marketing Campaign. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Renton Historical Society.
- **"Taste of The Landing" – Sunday, April 26.** Come celebrate the opening of Renton's new urban village.
- **Western Regional Hot Food Championship, Saturday, April 4 – Monday, April 6, Renton Technical College**
- **Author Mark Winne speaks about "Closing the Food Gap," Saturday, April 4, Carco Theatre.** Winne explores food inequality in the U.S. and suggests solutions. He will sign his book, *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*, after the talk. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, or free with food item for Renton Food Bank. Presented by the Renton History Museum.
- **"Culinary Arts" class at Renton Technical College, starting Monday, April 6**
- **"Professional Baking" class at Renton Technical College, starting Monday, April 6**
- **"Cheese Making" class at Renton Technical College, starting Tuesday, April 7**
- **Productive Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces: Planning Raised Beds and Containers – Wednesday, April 8.** Learn how to garden in containers or raised beds and enjoy the delicious freshness of home-grown veggies. At Renton Technical College. Presented by WSU King County Extension.

- **"Fundamentals of Cooking" class at Renton Technical College, starting, Monday, April 13**
- **"Cake Decorating I" class at Renton Technical College, starting Tuesday, April 14**
- **"Cake Decorating II" class at Renton Technical College, starting Thursday, April 16**
- **"3 Feet Under: Digging Deep for the Geoduck Clam," Thursday, April 16, 4:30 p.m. at Carco Theatre.** A screening of the Emmy-nominated film by Justin Bookey about the Pacific Northwest's favorite clam, the "gooey duck." Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Presented by the Renton History Museum.
- **"Pasta and Pizza from Scratch" class at Renton Technical College, starting Tuesday, April 21**
- **"Hand Crafted Yeast Breads" class at Renton Technical College, starting Monday, April 27**
- **"Knife Skills" class at Renton Technical College, starting Tuesday, May 5**
- **"Asian Noodle Workshop II" class at Renton Technical College, starting Thursday, May 7**
- **"An Afternoon with Greg Atkinson," Thursday, May 7, 4:30 p.m. at Carco Theatre.** Local chef and cookbook author Greg Atkinson shares his passion for West Coast regional cuisine. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Presented by the Renton History Museum.
- **Local Food Year-Round: Simple Methods for Preserving Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – Wednesday, May 13.** Come learn some safe, simple techniques for saving the flavors of summer to enjoy in the dark season of root vegetables. At Renton Technical College Presented by WSU King County Extension.
- **"Sauces, Salsas and Rubs" class at Renton Technical College, starting Tuesday, May 19**
- **"Culinary Skill Refresher" class at Renton Technical College, starting, Sunday, May 31**
- **"Fundamentals of Cooking" class at Renton Technical College, starting, Monday, June 1**
- **Renton Farmers Market at the Piazza – Tuesdays, June 2 – September 15.** Buy your farm-fresh produce and meet the farmers! The Master Gardeners will also be at the Farmers Market from 3:30 until 6:30 p.m. to provide free advice on growing fruits and vegetables.

- **Renton Technical College Culinary Program Scholarship Dinner, Sunday, June 12**
- **“Cheese Making” class at Renton Technical College, starting Tuesday, June 16**
- **The Renton History Museum** will also offer an essay contest for youth, and an ongoing scavenger hunt with weekly prizes.

Museum Background

The Renton History Museum is a joint project of the Renton Historical Society and the City of Renton. Its mission is the preservation, documentation, and interpretation of the history and culture of greater Renton. The museum is located at 235 Mill Avenue South, and its hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Renton Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, supports the Renton Museum in its effort to collect, preserve and interpret the history of greater Renton, Washington, through research, archives, exhibits and publications.

For further information: www.rentonhistory.rentonwa.gov.